(c) The assets of MAMC have been placed under an Official Liquidator appointed by the Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata. The Hon'ble High Court has already passed winding up order, which has been confirmed by Hon'ble Supreme Court. For taking any decision on revival, first step is to take approval of Hon'ble High Court. Then due diligence of all the assets and liabilities of the company will be made to decide on revival plan. In view of the above it is difficult to assess tentative time limit in the matter.

Production of coal by private sector

†447. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalized identification of the coalfields where production of coal has been decided to be assigned to the private sector;

(b) if so, the total number of such coalfields till June, 2007;

(c) the number of coalfields wherein mining work has been assigned to private sector during the year 2007, so far; and

(d) the number of mines which are likely to be assigned to private sector during residual period of the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Initially 148 coal blocks were identified for allocation to public and private sector companies. Out of these, 110 coal blocks have already been allocated leaving 38 blocks. In addition 22 blocks were separately identified and allocated to both public and private sector companies.

Subsequently, in the 5th meeting of the Energy Coordination Committee held on 10.03.2006 a view was taken that the Ministry of Coal would identify adequate number of blocks aggregating to 20 billion tonnes, which could be de-reserved for captive mining. Accordingly 81 coal blocks with geological reserve of 20.02 billion tonnes have been identified for allocation to public/private sector companies for specified end-uses.

(c) Till date 165 coal blocks have been allocated to both public and private sector companies. In the year 2007,43 coal blocks have been allocated which include 9 coal blocks allocated to private sector companies.

(d) 48 coal blocks are on offer for captive mining purpose to public and private sector companies. Within the coal blocks earmarked for captive mining, there is no separate earmarking for private sector companies.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi